



Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 26 February 2009

Current Nationwide
Threat Level is



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- The Alton Telegraph reports that an explosion destroyed a building Tuesday night at Hanley Industries in Alton, Illinois. Hanley Industries manufactures explosive devices for the military equipment and aircraft markets. (See item [12](#))
- According to Government Executive, a report released on Monday by the Energy Department Inspector General concluded that the department could not accurately account for the quantities and locations of nuclear material at 15 out of 40, or 37 percent, of facilities reviewed. (See item [32](#))

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Fast Jump

Production Industries: [Energy](#); [Chemical](#); [Nuclear Reactors](#), [Materials and Waste](#); [Defense Industrial Base](#); [Dams](#)

Service Industries: [Banking and Finance](#); [Transportation](#); [Postal and Shipping](#); [Information Technology](#); [Communications](#); [Commercial Facilities](#)

Sustenance and Health: [Agriculture and Food](#); [Water](#); [Public Health and Healthcare](#)

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Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: **Physical**: ELEVATED, **Cyber**: ELEVATED

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://www.esisac.com>]

1. *February 25, Environmental Protection* – (Kansas; Wyoming) **Refiners in Kansas, Wyoming settle CAA violations.** Two petroleum refiners have agreed in separate settlements to spend a total of more than \$141 million on new air pollution controls at three refineries in Kansas and Wyoming, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Justice Department announced on February 10. The settlements are expected to reduce harmful air emissions by 7,000 tons per year. Frontier Refining and Frontier El Dorado Refining have agreed to pay a civil penalty of \$1.23 million and spend approximately \$127 million in pollution control upgrades for alleged violations at refineries in Cheyenne, Wyoming, and El Dorado, Kansas. Separately, Wyoming

Refining Co. has agreed to pay a civil penalty of \$150,000 and spend approximately \$14 million on similar upgrades for alleged violations at its Newcastle, Wyoming refinery. The three refineries are required to install advanced control technologies that, when fully implemented, will reduce annual emissions of sulfur dioxide by approximately 3,775 tons, nitrogen oxide by approximately 2,100 tons, and other pollutants by approximately 1,200 tons. The refineries have a combined production capacity of approximately 168,000 barrels per day. In addition, each refinery will upgrade leak-detection and repair practices to reduce harmful emissions from pumps and valves, implement programs to minimize the number and severity of flaring events, and adopt new strategies for ensuring continued compliance with benzene waste requirements under the Clean Air Act.

Source: <http://www.eponline.com/articles/70906/>

2. *February 25, Dow Jones* – (Alaska) **Alaska chides BP for mistakes leading to pipe blast.** The Alaskan state government's Petroleum Systems Integrity Office (PSIO) has criticized maintenance procedures at BP PLC's Prudhoe Bay oil field that led to a potentially life threatening gas pipeline explosion last year. "The portion of the pipeline that ruptured went 10 years between (corrosion) inspections," said a letter from a PSIO coordinator to a BP Exploration Alaska senior vice president dated February 20. It is vital that BP, "implement a process to track and close out missed corrosion inspections...in time to prevent a similar incident," she said. She gave BP until May 15 to take all necessary corrective action. She also said she was "deeply concerned with the timeliness and depth of the incident investigation related to this event." The pipe exploded September 29, 2008, but BP's review summary was not submitted until January 13. The high pressure gas pipeline explosion showered chunks of steel across the Alaskan tundra. Nobody was near the pipeline at the time, but if the explosion had occurred, "under slightly different circumstances, the results would have been catastrophic, potentially with loss of life," the letter said. Moisture was able to corrode a section of the pipeline where the coating of insulation had been removed during maintenance work in 1998. A corrosion examination in 2003 failed to check that section because it was buried in a snow drift. Last week, an unknown amount of oil, natural gas and produced water spilled from a Prudhoe Bay pipeline, the Anchorage Daily News reported. The pipeline has been shut in and is being emptied and 11 wells were shut down temporarily.

Source:

http://money.cnn.com/news/newsfeeds/articles/djf500/200902250941DOWJONESDJO NLINE000494_FORTUNE5.htm

3. *February 24, Peninsula Clarion* – (Alaska) **Power outage affects refinery.** Homer Electric Association (HEA) customers throughout Kenai and nearly as far as Soldotna were without power for about an hour on February 23 after a transmission line insulator failed. According to a HEA spokesman, the failure shut down two substations at a few minutes after 2 p.m. and impacted the Tesoro Refinery in North Kenai as well. The substations provide power to the city of Kenai, the Beaver Creek area and up to Spruce Avenue, just outside Soldotna. HEA crews isolated the problem at the damaged transmission line power pole and were able to re-energize the system at 3:06 p.m. The

refinery remained off line while the broken insulator was replaced. The spokesman said the repairs were expected to take a few hours, and HEA hoped to have power restored to the refinery by early evening on February 23.

Source: http://www.peninsulaclarion.com/stories/022409/new_285211991.shtml

4. *February 24, KWTX 10 Waco* – (Maine) **Crews work to restore power after winter blast.** Utility crews reinforced with line workers from out-of-state are making progress in restoring electricity to homes and businesses left in the dark by a wind-whipped storm that dumped 2 feet of snow in parts of Maine. Roughly half of the more than 140,000 people who were without power at the peak of Monday's outages were back on line Tuesday morning. The wet, heavy snow snapped tree limbs, power lines, and utility poles. Central Maine Power and Bangor Hydro Electric said efforts to restore power were complicated by poor road conditions and the rural locations of many outages. Some 15 warming shelters were set up around the state.

Source: <http://www.kwtx.com/weather/headlines/40218777.html>

5. *February 24, Canton Repository* – (Ohio) **Oil storage-tank explosion rattles Malvern area.** A battery of oil storage tanks caught fire and caused a loud explosion during the evening of February 23 in the Malvern area. The explosion, which could be heard about 4 miles away, occurred at about 7:25 p.m. on property in Carroll County's Brown Township. The three oil-storage tanks belong to EnerVest, a Houston-based energy company. There were no injuries.

Source: <http://www.cantonrep.com/news/x1362383256/Oil-storage-tank-explosion-rattles-Malvern-area>

6. *February 24, KVVU 5 Las Vegas and Associated Press* – (Nevada) **State blames county for gas leak.** A natural gas leak below a Las Vegas neighborhood in January — which could have led to an explosion — is Clark County's fault, according to state regulators. According to an article in the Las Vegas Sun, the Public Utilities Commission is seeking a public hearing to decide whether to fine the county up to \$100,000 for the potentially disastrous leak. County officials failed to properly mark storm drains and underground pipelines before beginning construction work under Eastern Avenue and Tropicana Avenue, said an affidavit filed by a gas pipeline engineer. Workers struck the pipeline, and natural gas leaked into a storm drain. A nearby day care had to be evacuated during the incident. No serious injuries were reported during the incident. The chief deputy district attorney said the county has not violated the law.

Source: <http://www.fox5vegas.com/news/18784980/detail.html>

7. *February 23, GateHouse News Service* – (Massachusetts) **Explosions rock downtown.** Main Street in Taunton, Massachusetts was completely shut down early on February 23 afternoon by police, fire and utility workers after underground explosions blew off two manhole covers, ignited fires and rocked surrounding businesses. It was also the second time in less than a month that an underground fire has erupted in or near downtown. On January 29, a fire and explosion ignited below a manhole across from St. Mary's School forcing the evacuation of 350 students, none of whom were injured. And, last summer a

fire underneath Court Street forced the power company to cut electricity to nearby buildings for a number of hours. A Taunton Lighting Plant general manager called Taunton's underground, electrical cable system "very reliable." Asked to comment about malfunctions that have led to a string of fires and explosions over the past few years, he said "it's highly unusual for the system to fail" the way it has — especially, he noted, during winter months when there is no demand for air conditioning. "Nothing can explain it. It's more of bad luck than anything else," he said, adding that if the problem persists TMLP will be forced to "reassess" the entire system. The manager said that power on February 23 had been turned off, as a precaution, to buildings on the north side of the street specifically.

Source: <http://www.tauntongazette.com/news/x844640412/Explosions-rock-downtown>

See also:

http://www.turnto10.com/jar/news/local/article/manhole_explosion_hits_downtown_tau/10507/

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Chemical Industry Sector

8. *February 25, Associated Press* – (Nevada) **Fertilizer spill prompts hazmat response in Vegas.** Authorities have cordoned off an area of businesses and stores and closed a busy freeway interchange after a crash spilled a powdered hazardous material east of downtown Las Vegas. Firefighters and cleanup crews were at the scene, and a city spokesman said he had no word of injuries in the crash and the spill of ammonium nitrate at Charleston and Lamb boulevards. U.S. 95 freeway ramps at Charleston Boulevard are shut down, and police and firefighters have blocked a wide area around the spill. The chemical can be used as a fertilizer and an explosive. Authorities say a flatbed truck hauling another truck tipped on its side just before 5:45 a.m. at the intersection in front of a McDonald's restaurant.

Source: http://www.mercurynews.com/news/ci_11781422

9. *February 25, Jersey Journal* – (New Jersey) **Hazmat citations for plumbing supply firm: Chemicals are found.** A Jersey City plumbing supply company owner was cited for 16 violations on February 24 when a hazardous materials team visited the firm because drums of chemicals had been found in an empty adjacent lot, authorities said. Around 11:30 a.m., workers from the Jersey City Incinerator Authority (JCIA) called the Fire Department after finding 5-gallon drums labeled "sodium hypochlorite solution" in the lot near the corner of Sip Avenue and Field Street, said the local fire director. The responding hazmat team determined the chemical was actually a petroleum-based oil of no real danger, and authorities traced it to the adjacent Grand Plumbing Supply business. When firefighters entered the company premises, they found sixteen 15-gallon drums that contained an industrial solvent and were marked "corrosive," the fire director said. An inspection by the Fire Prevention Bureau led to the citations for violations related to improper storage. The JCIA is cleaning up the drums found in the vacant lot, he said, adding that it is not clear if workers from Grand Plumbing put the drums there.

Source: <http://www.nj.com/news/jjournal/jersecity/index.ssf?/base/news->

10. *February 24, Associated Press* – (Pennsylvania) **Toxic mixture said to be missing from W.Pa. plant.** The state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is investigating a claim that more than 2 gallons of a mixture containing a highly toxic heavy metal is missing from a closed western Pennsylvania factory. Former Industrial Diamond Powders Inc. plant manager recently told the DEP the mixture, which contained thallium, was missing. His father owned the Verona company, which made diamond abrasives, until his death in July 2003. Thallium is a suspected carcinogen once used in rat poison. One gram is enough to kill a person and lesser amounts can damage the heart, brain, spinal cord and lungs. A DEP spokeswoman says no thallium was found during a recent search, but the agency is continuing to investigate the claims. The site is being used by a home building and remodeling company.
Source: http://www.ldnews.com/news/ci_11775779
11. *February 23, Packer* – (National) **Organic fertilizers must undergo testing.** On the heels of disciplinary action by the California Department of Food and Agriculture against one manufacturer and a federal probe into yet another company, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is moving to stiffen requirements for suppliers of organic fertilizers. The USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service, which oversees the National Organic Program, announced February 20 that it will require third party reviewers to implement detailed audit and inspection protocols for all high nitrogen-content liquid organic fertilizers effective October 1.
Source: <http://thepacker.com/icms/dtaa2/content/wrapper.asp?alink=2009-92127-772.asp&stype=topnews&fb=&author>

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Nuclear Reactors, Materials, and Waste Sector

Nothing to report

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

12. *February 24, Alton Telegraph* – (Illinois) **Explosion reported at Hanley Industries.** An explosion rocked the Alton, Illinois area Tuesday night and destroyed a building at Hanley Industries. The blast was reported about 9:40 p.m. and numerous area residents reported feeling their houses shake and windows rattle. The Fosterburg Fire Protection District responded to the blast, which was reportedly caused by some black powder that ignited inside a small outbuilding. The explosion also caused a small grass fire in a nearby wooded area. Godfrey Fire Protection District also responded. A captain with the Fosterburg Fire Protection District said there were no injuries. He said the building that was destroyed was designed for incidents such as this and to cause the least amount of damage. Hanley Industries manufactures explosive devices for the military equipment and aircraft markets. The company's Web site says it produces high-quality explosive

components for field and aerospace equipment, artillery and bomb fuses, initiators and priming elements. It also makes miniature electrically initiated detonators, explosive bolts for space launch vehicles, stab primers and electric primers for naval guns.

Source:

http://www.thetelegraph.com/news/hanley_23928_article.html/fire_industries.html

See also: <http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/chi-ap-il-alttonexplosion,0,6442269.story>

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Banking and Finance Sector

13. *February 25, ZDNet Asia* – (International) **Phishers ride on financial crisis theme.**

Phishing attacks have doubled during the months of January and February, with phishers riding on the downturn in the economy to pose as financial institutions, said Symantec. According to the antivirus company's latest MessageLabs Intelligence Report, the recession theme has seen a revival in the past month, where spam is concerned. "At a time when concerned consumers may not be surprised to hear from their banks, phishing attacks have risen to one in 190 e-mail messages, from one in 396 in January 2009," said the report. "Recession spam" messages have also surfaced, carrying text strings such as "money is tight, times are hard." February saw the reappearance of search engine redirects referencing the financial crisis, for the first time in over a year, said Symantec. Overall, however, spam declined by 1.3 percent to 73.3 percent of all e-mail messages in February. The report added this includes a spike in levels hitting 79.5 percent at the start of the month, due in part to Valentine's Day-themed spam. Symantec said the vast majority of such spam originated from the Cutwail (Pandex) botnet, which pushed out an estimated 7 billion Valentine's Day-themed messages each day.

Source: <http://www.zdnetasia.com/news/security/0,39044215,62051534,00.htm>

14. *February 25, The Register* – (International) **Banking app vuln surfaces 18 months after discovery.** In the course of penetration testing a client's Web site, the CTO of security consulting firm Netragard says he discovered that CAMAS, the marketing name for Cambium's content management system, was riddled with vulnerabilities that made its customers' Web sites susceptible to breaches that could reveal administrator passwords and other sensitive data. It is no small deal since a significant percentage of Cambium's clients are banks, credit unions, and health care providers. What was unprecedented was the amount of time it took to publish the CTO's findings: Almost 18 months from the time of discovery. During most of that time, he says CAMAS customers who did not take special precautions — including Cambium Group itself, according to this Google cache — were vulnerable to attacks known as SQL injections. "I have no doubt what so ever that the vulnerability shown in the cached link above is the exact same one that we alerted Cambium's president of in August of 2007," the CTO wrote in an email to The Register. "Cambium's president may have fixed the vulnerability in our customer's instance of their Cambium Group Content Management System, but he certainly did not fix the rest of his customers according to Google." The time line of the advisory shows that Cambium was notified in full detail on August 24, 2007. And yet, a review by The Register earlier this month identified 24 Cambium-driven Web sites that returned verbose error messages when a single additional character

was added to the Web sites' URL. The errors were returned by the sites' SQL database and were the result of the same vulnerability, the CTO said.

Source: http://www.theregister.co.uk/2009/02/25/cambium_group_advisory/

15. *February 24, Reuters* – (National) **U.S. regulators brace for jump in bank failures.**

The rate of U.S. bank failures is expected to increase more than four-fold this year as federal regulators get fresh resources to handle insolvent banks, and as the U.S. Presidential Administration takes a more aggressive approach toward some banks' dismal prospects. Bank analysts and industry insiders say a continued deterioration in credit conditions will be the driving force behind a big upswing in the number of failures, but policy decisions will also push the numbers up. "I think people were surprised there weren't more last year, and I think that has to do more with the capabilities of the (Federal Deposit Insurance Corp) than the quality of the banks," said the chairman of law firm Pepper Hamilton's financial services practice group. The FDIC seized 25 banks last year. In just the first seven weeks of 2009, 14 banks failed and the FDIC is on pace to close more than 100 in 2009. The agency is on a hiring spree and wants to triple its line of credit with the Treasury Department, better equipping it to close weak banks and find buyers for their assets. "The FDIC has clearly stated that we expect an increase in our resolution activity as we work through this economic cycle," said a FDIC spokesman. "The prudent planning efforts by the FDIC over the last year and a half reflect this — including additional hiring, contractor engagements and budget increases."

Source: <http://uk.reuters.com/article/ousiv/idUKTRE51N5NA20090224>

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Transportation Sector

16. *February 25, WRC 4 Washington, D.C.* – (Maryland) **Red laser targets news**

helicopter. Montgomery County, Maryland, police are searching for the person who pointed a red laser beam at WJLA-TV's helicopter Wednesday morning. WJLA complained that someone in the area of Whittington Terrace and Caddington Avenue pointed the laser at their helicopter while it was flying for its morning news show.

Source: <http://www.nbcwashington.com/news/local/Red-Laser-Targets-News-Helicopter.html>

17. *February 25, WJLA 7 Washington, D.C.* – (Virginia) **Unattended bag found at Dulles;**

floor evacuated. A spokesperson with the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority reports that an unattended bag near the United Airlines ticket counter forced an evacuation of a portion of the ticketing level at Dulles International Airport on the evening of February 24. He says the Virginia State Police EOD team was called to the scene. The explosives team evaluated the bag and reportedly cleared the scene around 8 p.m. Authorities say no one was injured. At this time, there is no word about what was inside the bag.

Source: <http://www.wjla.com/news/stories/0209/598132.html?ref=rs>

18. *February 24, Los Angeles Times* – (California) **Fire forces evacuation at LAX**

terminal. A fire in an air conditioning compressor at Los Angeles International Airport forced the temporary evacuation of part of Terminal 6 on the evening of February 24, authorities said. No one was hurt, no aircraft were damaged and no flights were delayed, said an LAX spokeswoman. The fire broke out on the terminal's lower level about 7:30 p.m. Smoke wafted up to Gate 64 in the departure level above, and passengers and employees were evacuated. Los Angeles firefighters responded and extinguished the fire within half an hour, the spokeswoman said. The cause of the fire remains under investigation. LAX officials later issued a correction, saying that there was no fire but instead a "smoke incident" caused by a combination of oil and air in the air conditioning compressor.

Source: <http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/lanow/2009/02/a-fire-in-an-ai.html>

19. *February 24, Kansas City Star* – (Missouri) **Learjet ruptures fuel tank while landing at Downtown Airport.** A small business jet ruptured a fuel tank and leaked fuel on a taxiway early Tuesday morning while landing at the Wheeler Downtown Airport in Kansas City. The rupture occurred about 6 a.m. Tuesday while the Learjet was landing, said an airport spokesman. The plane's wing dipped, striking the runway and rupturing a fuel tank on the tip of the wing. Fuel leaked on a taxiway. Officials are trying to determine what caused the wing to dip. No one was injured. Kansas City fire crews responded to the airport and sprayed foam on the fuel, the spokesman said. The leak was not near any drains or watersheds.

Source: http://www.kansascity.com/news/breaking_news/story/1050620.html

20. *February 23, Newsday* – (National) **After crash, experts eye regional pilots' skills.** Pilots flying for regional airlines like Continental Connection, whose Flight 3407 crashed outside Buffalo last week, killing 50, generally have less experience and earn less money than pilots at major carriers, according to experts. But fewer flying hours and less pay do not translate into less safety, said an aviation consultant in Atlanta. "The consistency is performance standards, regardless of age or experience," he said. Still, with the crash investigation focusing on icing and how long Flight 3407 was on autopilot, the skills and experience of the pilots will continue to be questioned, some experts said. "The industry will be looking at this, especially in terms of qualifications," said the president of FltOps.com, a Web site about pilot training and career management. Pilots at regional airlines are often hired with 2,000 hours of flight experience, compared with 5,000 to 6,000 hours for new hires at the major airlines. Regional airlines experienced growth — as much as 35 percent a year — after the September 11th attacks because major airlines cut back service.

Source: <http://www.newsday.com/news/printedition/longisland/ny-lipilo6046665feb23,0,7826603.story>

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Postal and Shipping Sector

Nothing to report

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Agriculture and Food Sector

21. *February 24, Reuters* – (National) **U.S. salmonella outbreak count hits 666 people sickened.** An outbreak of salmonella food poisoning traced to peanut products has sickened 666 people and is continuing despite one of the biggest food recalls in U.S. history, health officials said on February 24. But the outbreak of salmonella is still only linked to nine deaths, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) said in a statement. “To date, 19 clusters of infections in five states have been reported in schools and other institutions, such as long-term care facilities and hospitals. King Nut brand peanut butter was present in all facilities,” the CDC said in a statement. King Nut is produced by Peanut Corporation of America, which has gone into bankruptcy and closed two plants in Georgia and Texas after inspectors traced the salmonella outbreaks to them. Its peanuts were not used in name brands of peanut butter but were ingredients in a wide range of products from peanut butter crackers to dog treats and bird seed. “To date, more than 2,100 products in 17 categories have been voluntarily recalled by more than 200 companies, and the list continues to grow,” the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) said in a statement. FBI officials in Atlanta and Virginia said earlier this week they had joined the FDA in a criminal investigation of the company. Members of Congress have pledged to reform the FDA’s food inspection program. Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/domesticNews/idUSTRE51O1HE20090225>
22. *February 24, Cattle Network* – (National) **NPPC: Court upholds EPA ‘dust rule’ for farms.** The National Pork Producers Council (NPPC) expressed disappointment with Tuesday’s ruling by a federal court to uphold a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) decision to regulate farms for dust. NPPC had asked the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit in Washington to review EPA’s decision to regulate emissions of coarse particulate matter (PM), or dust, in rural areas. The organization had argued that while EPA identified problems with coarse PM in urban areas — where it is mostly the byproduct of engine combustion — it failed to show any health effects associated with rural dust, which comes mostly from naturally occurring organic materials such as plants, sand and soil. While recognizing the distinctions between urban and rural PM sources, EPA nonetheless decided to regulate agricultural operations for coarse PM. A 2002 National Academy of Sciences report found that there were no scientifically credible methodologies for estimating emissions from animal feeding operations. The appeals court accepted EPA’s decision as “reasonable.” In rejecting arguments from NPPC and other livestock organizations, the court adopted the so-called precautionary principle, placing the burden on the livestock industry to prove that its operations are not harming the public or the environment. Under the regulations, livestock operations could be treated as stationary air emissions sources and be required to obtain emissions permits under federal and state laws. As a result, pork production operations could face monitoring for particulate matter such as dust from dirt roads and fields and for chemicals, including ammonia that can form particulate matter. Source: <http://www.cattlenetwork.com/Content.asp?ContentID=293699>
23. *February 24, Packer* – (California) **SK Foods fires employee for changing test results.** SK Foods LP has fired an employee after she pleaded guilty to mislabeling and

changing test results. The employee worked for the tomato processor in Lemoore, California, but SK Foods, which owns Salinas Valley grower-shipper Salyer American Fresh Foods, has its main offices in Monterey, California. According to an SK Foods news release, the employee was previously suspended and was fired after her February 18 guilty plea. “The government has made perfectly clear that no food safety issues were involved in this case but claims she mislabeled products and changed test results,” the SK Foods’ attorney said in the release. The San Francisco Chronicle reported the employee told prosecutors she had acted at the direction of company managers and has agreed to cooperate in the investigation.

Source: <http://www.thepacker.com/icms/dtaa2/content/wrapper.asp?alink=2009-14530-910.asp&stype=topnews&fb=&author=Dawn+Withers>

24. *February 23, Texas A&M AgriLife Communications* – (National) **Portable kit may one day detect plant disease before disastrous outbreak.** This science may literally be outside the box: A briefcase-sized kit is carried to a field where thousands of tons of food are growing. The search is for microorganisms that could infect and kill the plants, wreaking havoc on the food supply and market. That is what scientists plan to do within three years, according to a doctor at Texas AgriLife Research plant pathologist and the lead investigator on a \$1 million U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) grant that takes aim at protecting the nation’s food and agriculture from bacterial, fungal and viral agents on the homeland security select list. PADLOC is what they have already named the futuristic kit — Pathogen Detection Lab-On-a-Chip. “It’s a portable system,” the doctor said. “The idea is to shorten the current detection process to a few hours so that a plan could be set up to minimize impact from such plant diseases.” “There’s a need for a system that is not only portable but rapid, accurate and ‘dummy proof’ so that someone with no background in the science could use it,” he said. “The technology we need is already available to both plant pathology and engineering. We’re just putting them together.” The doctor acknowledges that the project is high risk. The team promises USDA a prototype in three years.

Source: <http://www.physorg.com/news154628642.html>

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Water Sector

25. *February 25, Reuters* – (Pennsylvania) **U.S. gas drilling boom stirs water worries.** Range Resources Corp, the Texas company that has drilled 68 wells in the Mount Pleasant Township, needs millions of gallons of water for “hydrofracking,” a process that forces a chemical-laden solution deep into the rock, allowing natural gas to be released. The technique is being repeated at hundreds of other sites in Pennsylvania and parts of surrounding states as energy companies scramble to exploit the Marcellus Shale, one of America’s biggest natural gas formations, which some geologists believe contains enough recoverable gas to meet total U.S. needs for a decade or more. The supervisor said he has no evidence that drilling is contaminating groundwater, but is aware of concerns that the “fracking” fluid may escape — either above or below ground — and that the chemicals in it have the potential to cause cancer, damage human immune and reproductive systems, and trigger other illnesses. According to the

Endocrine Disruption Exchange, a research organization in Paonia, Colorado, 30 percent of 54 tested chemicals used in the fluid are carcinogenic; 74 percent can cause respiratory damage, and 54 percent pose a danger to the blood and cardiovascular systems. About 80 percent of the fracking fluid remains about a mile underground — thousands of feet below drinking-water aquifers — where it “dissipates” into the rock after drilling, a Range Resources spokesperson said. The remainder is treated on the surface and then returned to local water sources.

Source:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/rbssEnergyNews/idUSN1737864020090225?pageNumber=1&virtualBrandChannel=0>

26. *February 24, Arkansas Democrat-Gazette* – (Arkansas) **Mayor: Method found to purify drilling water.** Using an idle sewer plant in town, the city of Clinton has found a way to recycle contaminated water used in the natural-gas drilling process, the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette has learned. “We have a process that will clean all the drill wastewater,” the Clinton mayor said the evening of February 23. The Fayetteville Shale is a geologic formation where companies are drilling for natural gas in north-central Arkansas. Natural-gas companies use millions of gallons of water to drill each well in the formation and to break up the rock to release the gas. Some wastewater already is being spread on vacant land in a process called land application or land farming. Other wastewater from drilling is too salty or laden with chemicals and must be pumped into injection disposal wells. Arkansas, because it is newer to the shale business, lacks infrastructure to adequately process both types of drilling water. The city hopes to recycle 80 of every 100 gallons of water it treats by selling it back to the gas-drilling companies. The rest, he said, would go into injection wells.

Source: <http://www.nwanews.com/adg/News/253313/>

27. *February 23, Environmental News Service* – (Vermont) **Environmental judge orders Vermont to act on stormwater.** For the second time in seven months, the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources (ANR) has been handed a court order to implement stormwater regulations that will protect water quality in five Chittenden County brooks. An environmental court judge the week of February 16 reaffirmed his August 2008 order to the state agency to require commercial and residential property owners to obtain stormwater discharge permits for Bartlett, Centennial, Englesby, Morehouse and Potash brooks — all in urban areas. The agency had appealed the judge’s earlier ruling in the case brought by the Conservation Law Foundation. In his most recent ruling, the judge repeated that the federal Clean Water Act (CWA) does not allow the state agency discretion to decide not to regulate properties that contribute pollution to an impaired stream. “Whatever discretion ANR might have in this matter, it does not include the ability to decide to do nothing under the CWA,” the judge wrote. The agency had argued in court that its stormwater cleanup strategy is a better approach than regulating polluters one by one in these watersheds.

Source: <http://www.ens-newswire.com/ens/feb2009/2009-02-23-092.asp>

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Public Health and Healthcare Sector

28. *February 25, Raleigh News & Observer* – (North Carolina) **FDA ignored debris in syringes.** Months before an Angier, North Carolina company shipped deadly bacteria-tainted drugs, the federal Food and Drug Administration received numerous complaints about sediment and debris in the medicine. The FDA received reports about AM2PAT as early as 2005, but not until December 2007 did the agency pull any of the drugs off the market. AM2PAT, which is now the subject of a criminal investigation, sold tainted syringes of heparin and saline that have been linked to five deaths. Hundreds more people were sickened, often after receiving the medicines during chemotherapy, kidney dialysis and other intravenous procedures. Two men pleaded guilty in U.S. District Court this week for their roles in the scheme, which involved falsifying documents to make it appear that proper sterility tests had been conducted.
Source: http://www.newsobserver.com/news/health_science/story/1418047.html
29. *February 23, Fierce Health IT* – (National) **Study: IT spending should be central to healthcare reform.** In its recent study, “The Path to a High Performance U.S. Health System: A 2020 Vision and the Policies to Pave the Way,” Commonwealth Fund researchers recommend that policymakers invest in infrastructure — including health IT — to improve the availability, quality and usefulness of information in healthcare decision-making. The report suggests that leaders establish standards, require electronic reporting of clinical information and provide start-up funding for a national health information network. In addition to IT investment, Commonwealth Fund recommendations include that officials establish a health insurance exchange offering access to private plans, and a new public plan offering comprehensive benefits; change reimbursements to reward value rather than volume care; establish a system offering everyone a personal source of coordinated, accessible care; and set national goals for high performance by providers.
Source: <http://www.fiercehealthit.com/story/study-it-spending-should-be-central-healthcare-reform/2009-02-23>
30. *February 22, Reuters* – (New York) **Bushmeat, an African delicacy, facing NY crackdown.** U.S. health officials say a steady flow of “bushmeat” is brought illegally into the United States, largely by West and Central African immigrants. Officials say the imports are a serious public health hazard. New York’s state legislature may increase the penalties for smuggling, although immigrants say the dangers are overblown. Officials say even a small amount of tainted bushmeat — a staple of some African diets that includes chimpanzee, gorilla, antelope, birds and rodents — could lead to an outbreak of Ebola, monkey pox or other infectious diseases. “It just takes one piece of meat that’s infected with Ebola virus for us to have a major disaster on our hands,” said a former New York City health commissioner and the former director of an immunization drive in West Africa. “It spreads very rapidly. It is very difficult to contain and control.” The scientist and author of “Eating Apes” said Ebola can be spread through butchering chimpanzees and that a person could possibly contract Ebola after the meat is transported.
Source:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/domesticNews/idUSTRE51L1A720090222?pageNumber=1&virtualBrandChannel=0>

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Government Facilities Sector

31. *February 24, Chemical & Engineering News* – (California) **Animal rights extremists arrested.** After months of intense federal, state, and local investigation, four animal rights extremists have been arrested in connection with a series of harassing incidents directed toward University of California researchers. On February 20, the Federal Bureau of Investigation arrested the four suspects, all of whom hail from California, saying their protests violated the federal Animal Enterprise Terrorism Act. Two of the suspects are former UCSC students. University of California officials lauded the arrests. “Our students, staff, and faculty...deserve to work and live in a safe environment, without fear that they and their families will be targets of violent actions and threats,” said the dean of physical and biological sciences at UCSC in a statement. If convicted, the suspects face up to five years in prison.
Source: <http://pubs.acs.org/cen/news/87/i09/8709news4.html>
32. *February 24, Government Executive* – (National) **IG: Energy cannot account for nuclear materials at 15 locations.** A number of institutions with licenses to hold nuclear material reported to the Energy Department in 2004 that the amount of material they held was less than agency records indicated. But rather than investigating the discrepancies, Energy officials wrote off significant quantities of nuclear material from the department’s inventory records. That is just one of the findings of a report released on February 23 by the Energy Department Inspector General that concluded “the department cannot properly account for and effectively manage its nuclear materials maintained by domestic licensees and may be unable to detect lost or stolen material.” Auditors found that Energy could not accurately account for the quantities and locations of nuclear material at 15 out of 40, or 37 percent, of facilities reviewed. The materials written off included 20,580 grams of enriched uranium, 45 grams of plutonium, 5,001 kilograms of normal uranium and 189,139 kilograms of depleted uranium. “Considering the potential health risks associated with these materials and the potential for misuse should they fall into the wrong hands, the quantities written off were significant,” the report stated. Auditors also found that waste processing facilities could not locate or explain the whereabouts of significant quantities of uranium and other nuclear material that Energy Department records showed they held. More than 100 academic and commercial institutions and government agencies lease nuclear materials that are owned by Energy. The department, along with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, is supposed to track these materials through the centralized accounting system known as the Nuclear Materials Management and Safeguards System, or NMMSS.
Source: <http://www.govexec.com/dailyfed/0209/02309kp1.htm>
33. *February 23, Knoxville News Sentinel* – (Tennessee) **Waste convoy ready to roll today at K-25.** After a couple of months of demolition work at the World War II-era K-25 building, federal contractors were ready to dispose of the tons of contaminated rubble

that is starting to pile up at the Oak Ridge site. The first shipments to the nuclear landfill were supposed to take place on February 23, according to Bechtel Jacobs Co.'s cleanup manager for the Department of Energy (DOE). "They'll start out with five trucks doing three roundtrips a day," he said. That means 15 truckloads of waste will be shipped each day to the landfill 7 miles away from K-25 on the DOE Oak Ridge reservation. The landfill, which has multiple liners to protect the environment, is a CERCLA disposal facility known officially as the Environmental Management Waste Management Facility. After things get started and operations get smoothed out, the number of daily waste shipments will pick up significantly. The trucks will follow a route on a specially built "haul road," which keeps the traffic of radioactive waste off public highways. Eventually, about 400,000 cubic yards of waste will be generated by demolition of K-25, which was the nation's first gaseous diffusion plant and at the time of its construction in the early 1940s was the world's largest building under one roof.

Source:

http://blogs.knoxnews.com/knx/munger/2009/02/waste_convoy_ready_to_roll_at.html

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Emergency Services Sector

34. *February 25, Florence Times Daily* – (Alabama) **Statewide tornado drill scheduled for today.** Alabamians should not be startled Wednesday when tornado warning sirens and weather radios sound alerts. The alerts are not to warn of an approaching storm. Instead, they are to remind residents that tornado season in Alabama is March, April and May. A statewide tornado drill is part of Severe Weather Awareness Week. The National Weather Service will activate warning radios and many communities will sound sirens during the drill. Numerous television and radio stations will broadcast an alert for the drill. The director of the Colbert County Emergency Management Agency said the drill will allow residents who own a weather radio to make sure it is operating properly. The director said local emergency management agencies can often provide answers for residents with questions about weather radios.

Source:

<http://www.timesdaily.com/article/20090225/ARTICLES/902250321/1011/NEWS?Title=Statewide-tornado-drill-scheduled-for-today>

35. *February 24, Grand Forks Herald* – (North Dakota) **ND conducts emergency flood response exercise.** The North Dakota National Guard and the Department of Emergency Services is spending three days responding to an imaginary flood. The comprehensive training exercise aims to prepare everyone for a scenario that may become all too real this spring. "We're focusing on flooding across the state as a whole," said a North Dakota National Guard lieutenant. Almost 50 people are taking part in the exercise, which started Tuesday morning at the National Guard Joint Operations Center in Bismarck. The center will be fully staffed by the end of Tuesday. The exercise will conclude Thursday afternoon.

Source: <http://legacy.grandforksherald.com/articles/index.cfm?id=107994>

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Information Technology

36. *February 25, VNUNet.com* – (International) **Phishers launch multi-platform IM attack.** Users of Internet chat services have been hit by a major phishing attack aimed at stealing account log-in details, security researchers have warned. The unsolicited instant messages urge users to click on a TinyURL link to watch a video, but the link takes them to a site called ViddyHo which asks them to fill in user names and passwords. The phishers can then use these details to hack into user accounts and send more malicious links. Much of the focus around this attack has been on risks to Gmail account holders, in response to the Google Mail outage on February 24. However, phishers are also targeting users of instant messaging systems from Yahoo, Microsoft and MySpace. “This is, of course, a classic attempt to phish credentials from the unwary,” wrote the Sophos senior technology consultant in a blog posting. “The hackers behind ViddyHo could use the credentials they have stolen via their site to break into accounts, grab identity information and impact your wallet.” Users are also more likely to fall for this attack because the link comes from a trusted source, according to a solutions architect at security vendor Trend Micro.

Source: <http://www.vnunet.com/vnunet/news/2237230/multi-platform-im-phishing>

37. *February 25, BBC News* – (International) **Experts sound scam threat warning.** Experts are warning of an increase in the number of fake anti-virus Web sites. Hackers are tricking people with a false warning, saying that the computer is infected with a Trojan and getting users to buy a fake anti-virus product. A number of sites were closed last year when authorities in the United States took action to stop sellers of “scareware.” But despite the closures, the number of sites continues to grow, with one expert saying it was “the biggest threat facing computer users today.” The chairman of the Independent Trade Association of Computer Specialists, which represents independent computer retail and repair shops across Britain, said hackers were playing on people’s fear. “At my repair shop in Lincoln alone, we’ve had more than 300 users in the past six months come in with a computer infected with fake anti-virus software.” “This week, we’ve seen fake AVG anti-virus that was so good, one of my engineers was convinced that it was the real thing,” said the chairman. Hackers have been employing more sophisticated tricks to dupe users into buying their fake software. In early February 2009, hackers put fake parking tickets on cars with a URL directing them to “view pictures with information about your parking preferences” that in reality downloaded a Trojan that then prompted the user to install fake anti-virus software.

Source: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/technology/7907635.stm>

38. *February 25, Daily Tech* – (International) **eWeek ads infect users thanks to Adobe flaw.** Adobe has over the last several years claimed many of the top security vulnerabilities due to its rich format which gives hackers many easy routes to take over computers. eWeek, a leading computer and security news site, became the latest victim of an Adobe exploit earlier this month. Other sites owned by Ziff Davis Media, which owns eWeek, were also affected. The Ziff Davis sites hosted an ad, which while looking legitimate redirected users through a series of iFrames to a pornographic Web site. And that was not the end of the shenanigans, either. The site then tried to download an Adobe

PDF containing a known exploit, 'bloodhound.exploit.213.' A patch had been previously released for the exploit, which affects Adobe Acrobat and Reader versions 8.12 and earlier, but many users still have yet to receive it. Once the exploit gains access to the system, it installs a file named "winratit.exe" in the user's temporary files folder and two other files, according to security researchers at Websense. The files are activated when users are browsing the Internet and they try to get users to buy fake antivirus software by redirecting them to phony sites. Websense describes the fake software, "The name of the rogue AV application is Anti-Virus-1. If the user chooses to register the rogue AV, a connection is made to hxxp://[removed]-site.info/, which has been set up to collect payment details." The offending ads have been removed from the system.

Source:

<http://www.dailytech.com/EWeek+Ads+Infect+Users+Thanks+to+Adobe+Flaw/article14407.htm>

39. *February 23, SC Magazine* – (International) **Microsoft says password stealers pose biggest threat.** The top two threat families on Microsoft's detection and removal list this month are online game password stealers (PWS). These threats are now predominantly occurring in the United States, a shift from last June, 2008, when they mostly were detected in China. In one week, Microsoft's free Malicious Software Removal Tool (MSRT) cleaned more than 980,000 machines from the Taterf worm, the top threat family this month, a spokesman in Microsoft's Malware Response Center wrote in a blog post February 19. The worm steals gaming credentials either through keylogging or by injecting itself into game clients and reading memory. The MSRT, released on the second Tuesday of each month, checks computers running Windows Vista, XP, 2000 and Windows Server 2003 for infections by prevalent malware and helps remove infections. The second most detected and removed malware family this month is Frethog, another PWS, which MSRT cleaned off 316,971 machines in one week. A threat researcher with anti-malware firm Trend Micro told SCMagazineUS.com that the motivation behind these threats is financial. Many online games have in-game currency or "game gold." Portals to convert these various game currencies into real world cash have been available for some time. Stolen game login credentials are similar to stolen banking passwords, since game currency can be turned into real cash, the threat researcher said.

Source: <http://www.scmagazineus.com/Microsoft-says-password-stealers-pose-biggest-threat/article/127681/>

Internet Alert Dashboard

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Website: <http://www.us-cert.gov>.

Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Website: <https://www.it-isac.org/>.

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Communications Sector

Nothing to report

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Commercial Facilities Sector

40. *February 24, Boston Globe* – (New Hampshire) **Man, 85, killed in Manchester house explosion.** A fiery blast leveled a home in Manchester, New Hampshire early on February 24, and killed an 85-year-old man in the fourth house explosion in New England since December, police and witnesses said. Responding firefighters at 2:45 a.m. found the home on Barrett Street engulfed in “a huge ball of flame” that could be seen at least four blocks away, said a district fire chief. It was not immediately clear what caused the explosion. Natural gas crews have not had any calls for service for leaks, repairs, or equipment upgrades in the neighborhood for several years, according to a National Grid spokesman. Neighbors have not reported smelling gas prior to the explosion, he said, and no gas leaks were detected after the blast.

Source:

http://www.boston.com/news/local/breaking_news/2009/02/man_85_killed_i.html?p1=Well_MostPop_Emailed7

41. *February 24, Arkansas Daily Citizen* – (Arkansas) **Explosives found in storage.** A stockpile of illegal explosives was discovered in a Searcy, Arkansas storage unit on February 24. Found in a rental space at The Storage House were 1.5 pounds of TNT, several 2.5 pound sticks of C-4, a time fuse, 26 non-electric blasting caps, black powder and artillery simulator shells. “Nobody really knows,” the Searcy fire chief said of how the items got into the 15’ by 30’ unit with a garage-style door. He said the items are regulated and should not have been there, and another official confirmed that possession and use of the items, which could have been used to remove stumps or rocks during construction, were subject to federal and state law. “It looks like that at one time the guy worked for the Arkansas Power and Light Company,” the official said, noting the items could have been stolen but probably were not. “Years ago these things were not regulated as they are today. Some of these items may have been as much as 15 years old.” The bomb squad coordinator for the Arkansas State Police took possession of the items and with an agent from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms took the explosives to Camp Robinson for disposal.

Source: http://www.thedailycitizen.com/articles/2009/02/25/news/top_stories/top01.txt

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National Monuments & Icons Sector

Nothing to report

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Dams Sector

Nothing to report

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